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FM AMCONSUL LAGOS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0051
INFO ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0009
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA

Tuesday, 23 February 2010, 08:20
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 05 LAGOS 000075
SIPDIS
DEPARTMENT FOR AF/FO, AF/W, AF/RSA, AND INR/AA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PASS TO AMEMBASSY MALABO
EO 12958 DECL: 2020/02/23
TAGS EPET, ENRG, ECON, PCOV, PREL, NI
SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY CARSON MEETS OIL COMPANIES IN LAGOS
CLASSIFIED BY: Donna M. Blair, CG, State, ConGen Lagos; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

SUMMARY

11. (C) Assistant Secretary (A/S) Carson met with members of the International Oil Companies (IOCs) on February 7. The A/S stressed the fact th
12. (C) Assistant Secretary Carson met with members of the international oil community in Lagos on February 7. In attendance were the following

NIGERIA: MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN AFRICA

13. (C) Fawthrop asked the A/S whether he was in Nigeria to deliver a message or was it more of a fact-finding trip? A/S Carson stated that he
14. (C) The United States is concerned about the power vacuum in Nigeria and the state of health of President Yar A'dua, per A/S Carson. The pr
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UNITED STATES PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN NIGERIA NEEDS ATTENTION

15. (C) Some places are more important than others within the Federal system of Nigeria and Lagos is one of the more important places, accordir
16. (C) The statements of the A/S sounded wonderful from a Hausa viewpoint, but nothing was mentioned about Southern and Eastern Nigeria, Fawth
17. (C) Akwa Ibom governor Godswill Akpabio was singled out as an impressive governor by Mark Ward. Akpabio has built up infrastructure and inc

STATUS OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY BILL

18. (C) The PIB is more about taking control and not a real solution, per Mark Ward. XXXXXXXXXXXX There are currently three versions between th
19. (C) The large fields, elephants, have all been developed in
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Nigeria per Fawthrop. What remains are fields one-quarter to one-third the size. The same costs are involved in producing the oil but the rever
110. (C) The gas side of the PIB tries to legislate the delivery of gas rather than incentivize it. "The donkey is tired and beaten. It will nc
111. (C) Whenever gas doubles the cost of electricity goes up by one quarter. Stable electricity will allow industry to flourish in Nigeria but
112. (C) A large problem will be the ten percent of equity that is to go to the communities argued Fawthrop. Equity going into the communities
113. (C) Peter Robinson stated after the meeting that Pedro Van Meurs, the oil consultant hired by the GON to help negotiate with the IOCs, is

WHERE DOES NIGERIA GO FROM HERE?

114. (C) It is possible that Nigeria could be a future Pakistan according to A/S Carson. In 25 years, there could be impoverished masses, a wea
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be at the current level of Indonesia Fawthrop asserted. That is using today's figures, which does not take into account Indonesia's growth Kran
115. (C) The A/S offered that a forum could be organized in Nigeria with World Bank President Robert Zoellick speaking to a wide audience. Unde

CHINESE - AMERICAN RELATIONS IN AFRICA

116. (C) What is the status of America's influence in Africa and how does it compare to China, Fawthrop queried? The influence of the United St

COMMENT

117. (C) A/S Carson effectively provided the IOCs with a rationale for the United States' interest in Nigeria and its commitment to the country
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118. (U) A/S Carson did not have an opportunity to clear this cable before departing post. BLAIR